

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for identifying an individual having PSC, IAH, Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, comprising the step of detecting the presence or absence of PSC associated retroviral nucleic acid molecule wherein a presence of the nucleic acid molecule indicates that the individual has the disorder.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule has the nucleotide sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7.

3. A composition comprising an isolated PSC associated retrovirus.

4. A method for identifying an individual infected with a PSC associated retrovirus comprising the step of detecting the presence or absence of a PSC associated retroviral nucleic acid molecule, wherein a presence of the nucleic acid molecule indicates that the individual is infected with the virus.

5. A method for inhibiting replication of a PSC associated retrovirus in an individual infected with the virus by administering a composition which targets the PSC pol sequence in a therapeutically effective amount.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the composition is an antisense molecule.